Name: _____

Date: _____

Census 2011

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is responsible for developing and administering Australia's Census of Population and Housing. This activity will help you understand the processes of a Census by matching frequently asked questions with their answers.

1 List 3 or 4 questions that you think people might want to know about the Census. Also think about who might ask these questions.

Give students 4-5 minutes to think up answers to this question. They can be prompted to consider their response from the view point of different people. Answers will vary but the question is intended to elicit concerns that individuals in the class might have themselves with filling in the Census form. Hopefully, the teacher can address any of these concerns which will not be dealt with later in the answers to the FAQ.

2 Compare your responses with someone else in your class. Write down a question that was different to yours.

Students will need another few minutes working in pairs to compare their answers in question 1 and to add any new points to their response.

3 Discuss with your class what questions other students had.

Teachers can allow students around the room to read out one response each. As mentioned above, concerns that are raised but are not addressed in the FAQ answers will need to be addressed here.

4 Look at the questions listed in the table on Page 2 and:

a Place a tick next to any that are the same as ones raised by your class.

The class can discuss why they might have thought of some questions not on the FAQ list.

b Put a number next to each question according to the order that you think the information would be presented.

It would be useful for the class to make a prediction before they see the FAQs. The opening and closing statements will be easier to name than those in the middle. For example, we can expect questions about 'What is the Census?' at the beginning. The order of the middle questions will be more arbitrary and a matter of style. However it will be logical to group some questions as pairs such as those related to privacy and security, as well as those related to the eCensus.

C Share your answers with the rest of the class and try to arrange them in an order that all of the class agrees to.

Teacher Note: The answers shown in the last column of the table are not on the student sheet. With class agreement, answers will need to be filled into this column after students have filled in the two previous columns and before students attempt question 5.

5 On pages 2, 3 and 4 there are answers to the questions shown in the table. Cut the statements out and match them to the correct question.

Teacher Note: Answers are on teacher solution version only. Students may prefer to cut out each rectangle so they can physically move them around to match the questions from question 4 above. Time can be given for students to consider their answers individually and then to work in pairs and groups to explain their reasoning.

6 **Extension**: prepare a one minute talk for the class explaining why all people in Australia on Census night need to fill in a Census form.

Table for Q4

Question	On my list? ✓ or ✗	Order 1-11	Class order
Is it compulsory?			2
Who uses Census information?			6
How does the ABS make sure of my privacy?			9
How secure is the eCensus?			11
Is my information going to be provided to other government agencies such as Centrelink, Tax Office or Department of Housing?			8
Why is the Census needed?			3
What are the benefits of having a Census?			4
How are the Census results used?			7
What is the eCensus?			10
What is the Census?			1
Who is counted in the Census?			5

Sentences for Q5: *Cut out the sentences, match them with the appropriate question in the table and then write the question's number in the box.*

3

The Census is crucial to communities, private institutions and all levels of government for the planning of services and facilities. Federal funding arrangements to the states and territories are also based on Census figures. Census information is used as the basis for the allocation of GST revenue to the states and territories.

7

- to estimate the population of each state, territory and local government area.
- to determine electoral boundaries and calculate the number of Members to be elected to the House of Representatives from each state and self-governing territory.
- to determine the distribution of Federal government funds to the states.
- to show characteristics of Australia's people and their housing within small geographic areas and for small population groups.
- to give governments and other users information they can use to support planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities.
- to help plan basic services such as housing, social security, transport, education, industry, shops and hospitals.

8

No! The ABS is legally bound to protect the privacy of individuals and cannot give identifiable information to any third party. Organisations outside the ABS will not be given data about an individual person or individual household. The confidentiality of your data is protected by the Census and Statistics Act and the Privacy Act. Both these Acts ensure that data is not provided to anyone where that data can be used to identify an individual. All ABS staff, including temporary employees are legally bound never to release personal information outside the ABS. By law, organisations such as the Tax Office and credit reference groups cannot have access to personal details from the Census

10

The eCensus is an electronic option for returning your Census form, which allows you to complete the Census via the Internet.

5

The Census includes all people, except foreign diplomats and their families, who are in Australia and its internal and external Territories on Census Night. This includes:

- People working or living on boats in Australian waters.
- Visitors to Australia regardless of how long they've been in the country or how long they plan to stay.
- People outside but normally resident in Australia such as those on oil and gas rigs off the Australian coast.
- People of the Torres Strait Islands.
- People of the Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island (the results for these Territories were included in the counts for Australia for the first time in 1996).
- People "over-wintering" in the Australian Antarctic Territory.
- Overseas visitors to Australia.
- Homeless people.

Q5: Continued

- People on aeroplanes travelling between Australian destinations on Census Night.
- People on ships travelling between Australian destinations on Census Night.
- All children, including newborn babies born before midnight on Census Night.
- People in detention centres.
- People in prison.
- Transport drivers on the road.
- People in hospitals and institutions.

9 The ABS has an excellent record of maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the information provided to it over 100 years of operations. All Census forms (including names and addresses) are pulped under strict supervision following processing.

1 The Census of Population and Housing is the largest statistical operation undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It aims to accurately measure the number of people in Australia on Census Night, their key characteristics and the dwellings in which they live.

4 Community organisations, private institutions and all levels of government use Census figures as the basis for many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly and young people.
The number of seats each state and territory has in the House of Representatives is also based on Census figures, as are federal funding arrangements to the states and territories. Census information is used as the basis for allocation of GST revenue to the states and territories.

11 To ensure that your information is delivered to the ABS free of tampering, we have used the strongest encryption technology that current browsers will support. eCensus data sent to the ABS via the Internet is not able to be read by anyone other than the ABS.
At the end of the Census, the hard disk drives used to store information are thoroughly wiped under the supervision of the ABS to ensure there is no possibility of any Census data being accessed by any unauthorised person.

2 Yes. The Census and Statistics Act (1905) which authorises the Census also provides for the compulsory completion of the Census form. On Census Night, you are asked to answer the questions on the Census form. If you do not answer the questions, the Australian Statistician has the power to direct you to provide the information.

6 Census information is used by all sections of the community, from state and federal government to town planners, community groups, students, large and small businesses and more.